

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 11964 310702Z
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 VO-05 CA-01

INSE-00 SSO-00 /047 W

-----039217 310706Z /11

O R 310628Z AUG 78

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3005

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: MOVEMENT OF REFUGEES FROM HONG KONG TO MACAU

REF: GENEVA 13095

1. WITH DIRECTOR OF CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES ACTING AS
CONDUIT BETWEEN CARPENTER AND MACAU UNDERSECRETARY FOR
SOCIAL WELFARE, MOVEMENT OF 122 APPROVED CAT. I THROUGH
III REFUGEES FROM HONG KONG TO MACAU HAS BEEN SCHEDULED
FOR SEPT. 1.

2. WHEN WE ASKED CARPENTER IF NEXT STEP AFTER THIS MOVEMENT
WOULD BE TO OBTAIN AGREEMENT OF MACAU GOVT TO ACCEPT
MORE THAN 400 NUMBER MENTIONED IN JUNE LETTER, HE SAID
HE BELIEVED SO. HE SAID THAT SAMPATKUMAR REPORTED THAT
HE WOULD BE ARRIVING HONG KONG EVENING AUGUST 31. WE
SUGGESTED THAT SAMPATKUMAR MIGHT WANT TO VISIT MACAU
DURING THIS VISIT TO DISCUSS CRITICAL ACCOMODATION
IN HONG KONG AND TO PRESS FOR ADDITIONAL TRANSFERS
TO MACAU.

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3. GROUP OF 303 RPT 303 REFUGEES ARRIVED HONG KONG MORNING
AUGUST 31. ANOTHER GROUP OF APPROXIMATELY 250 RPT
250 IS DUE ARRIVE HERE AUGUST 31/SEPT. 1 ON HONG KONG
FISHING BOAT. CARPENTER DOES NOT KNOW WHERE THEY CAN
BE ACCOMMODATED. HE TOLD US THAT HE HOUSED LAST
LARGE GROUP BY SQUEEZING THEM INTO EXISTING SITES AND
THAT TRANSFER OF 122 REFUGEES TO MACAU WILL NOT FREE

ANY SITES FOR LONG TERM ACCOMMODATION. HE REPORTED HE HAD FOUND SEVERAL NEW ACCOMMODATION SITES IN HONG KONG, BUT THEY ARE NOT READY YET.

4. THESE NEW ARRIVALS WILL BRING BOAT REFUGEE POPULATION IS HONG KONG TO APPROXIMATELY 3455. IF THE GROUP OF 122 BEING TRANSFERRED TO MACAU IS SUBTRACTED, UNHCR WILL HAVE TO PROVIDE CARE AND MAINTENANCE IN HONG KONG TO APPROXIMATELY 3333 REFUGEES AT A MONTHLY COST OF APPROXIMATELY \$700,000. DIRECT ARRIVALS LANDING IN MACAU NOW TOTAL 318.

5. HONG KONG GOVT IS MOST CONCERNED ABOUT HIGH REFUGEE INFLUX. CONSULS GENERAL AND COMMISSIONERS OF APPROXIMATELY 15 MISSIONS IN HONG KONG HAVE BEEN INVITED TO MEETING AT GOVT SECRETARIAT ON SEPT. 5 SO THAT REFUGEE SITUATION CAN BE DISCUSSED. ACTING POLITICAL ADVISOR WILL PRESENT STRONG PLEA FOR URGENT REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT AND HAS ASKED LONDON AND BRITISH MISSION GENEVA FOR ANY APPROPRIATE SUPPORT.

6. WE INFORMED HONG KONG GOVT OF MISSION APPROACH TO UNHCR ON AUGUST 28. BRITISH MISSION IN GENEVA MAY CONTACT US MISSION FOR INFORMATION AND POSSIBLE COORDINATION.

SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEES, TRANSPORTATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978HONGK11964
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780355-0807
Format: TEL
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978084/aaaaadh1.tel
Line Count: 94
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7806dd5f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION HA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 GENEVA 13095
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1669425
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MOVEMENT OF REFUGEES FROM HONG KONG TO MACAU
TAGS: SREF, HK
To: GENEVA STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7806dd5f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014